

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 714

By Eldridge

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Thomas Allen Fail of Jackson.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Thomas Allen Fail; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fail was a prominent and distinguished businessman who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a native of Jackson, he was born to his parents, Thomas Allen Fail, Sr., and Nela Myracle Fail; and

WHEREAS, he attended Jackson city schools as a child, and was a graduate of Jackson High School; and

WHEREAS, he then attended Lambuth University, Union University, University of Hawaii, and Vanderbilt University, majoring in electrical engineering; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fail heroically and honorably served his country during World War II as part of the 30th Engineers in the Pacific Theatre of Operations; and

WHEREAS, he spent a long, distinguished, and illustrious career with Townsend Electric Company, first joining the company in 1949, as manager of the Memphis Operations, and later transferring to Jackson in 1956, where he remained until his retirement in 1997 as Chairman of the Board of the Townsend Company; and

WHEREAS, presiding with acumen and alacrity over the Townsend Company, Thomas Allen Fail earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues and peers for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, deeply involved in the engineering field, Mr. Fail volunteered his time and energies to a number of trade organizations, dedicating to each his coveted leadership style; he served as co-founder and first chairman of the Jackson Subsection of the American Institute of

Electrical Engineers, board member of the National Electrical Contractor Association, board member of the Memphis Electrical League, and life member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE); and

WHEREAS, he also committed his singular skills to several community and civic organizations, serving with the utmost probity and character as a board member of the Jackson Symphony, board member of the Jackson Madison County Crippled Children's Association, board member of the Star Center, and board member of the Jackson Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, a concerned and caring individual, Mr. Fail offered his support to several noteworthy causes, including the Jackson Humane Society, the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation, the American Heart Association, and the West Tennessee Cerebral Palsy Center; and

WHEREAS, he also held membership in several prestigious clubs and societies, including Forked Deer River Coon Club, Jackson Country Club, St. John's Masonic Lodge #332, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and he was a Paul Harris Fellow in the Jackson Rotary Club; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fail was an active and devout member of First United Methodist Church, which he served faithfully as a member of the Administrative Board and as past Superintendant of Sunday School; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Allen Fail was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Beverly Townsend Fail, who preceded him in death; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Fail was the proud and loving father of Jessica Fail Webb Young, Lisa Fail Stewart and husband Robert, and Allycin Fail Alexander and husband Greg; and

WHEREAS, he will be fondly remembered by his grandchildren, Kris Stewart, Alana Stewart, Lauren Webb, and Jonathan Webb; and

WHEREAS, he will also be sorely missed by his Cairn terrier, Rudy; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, Thomas Allen Fail was also preceded in death by his son-in-law, Wally Young, his step-father, Roger Edgar Vick, and his adored mother-in-law, Williclair Townsend; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Allen Fail leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Thomas Allen Fail, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Thomas Allen Fail.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.